

## **ODI RESUME**

U.S. Department of Transportation	Investigation: Date Opened: Investigator:	PE 10-026 07/20/2010 Kerrin Bressant	Reviewer:	Jeff Quandt
National Highway	Approver:	Richard Boyd		
Traffic Safety	Subject:	Front Sub-Frame Corrosion		
Administration				

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer:	FORD MOTOR COMPANY
Products:	1999-2003 Ford Windstar
Population:	900,000 (Estimated)
Problem Description:	Front sub-frame corrosion on ma

**m Description:** Front sub-frame corrosion on may result in right-front suspension failure, steering anomalies, loss of vehicle control, and/or a vehicle crash.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY						
	ODI	Manufacturer	Total			
Complaints:	87	TBD	TBD			
Crashes/Fires:	3	TBD	TBD			
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD			
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD			

## **ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION**

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

## Summary:

ODI has received 87 complaints alleging corrosion related failures of the front sub-frame in model year 1999 through 2003 Ford Windstar minivans. The corrosion allegedly occurs on the right side, in the area where the lower control arm is attached to the sub-frame.

Many of the complaints allege that a failure occurred while the vehicle was in motion resulting in a loss of vehicle control. Several of these complainants alleged that the failure resulted in either a crash or the vehicle running off the road. In addition, several complainants indicated detachment of the drive axle (half shaft) from the transmission, which may occur when a lower control arm mount separates and causes the wheel to pull free from the drive axle. This would result in a loss of motive power and a disabled vehicle. Several complaints indicated there were no warnings prior to any of the aforementioned failures. The majority of the complaints (85 of 87) were from "Salt-Belt" states.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the scope, frequency and safety consequences of the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.